•Overhead wires have been minimized by introducing wall distribution points.

•The junction network has been completely transferred to Optical Fibre Cable links. SDH (Synchronous Digital Hierarchy) systems connected on the ring architecture are also planned.

•Subscriber loop length is being reduced progressively by planning more Remote Subscriber Units and Remote Line Units (RSUs/ RLUs).

Shifting of telephones

1912. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prescribed any time limits for local inter-exhange and inter-city shifting of telephones in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to ensure strict adherence of these time limits by the telephone authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Sir, Quality of Service parameters are laid down and monitored by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in terms of TRAI Act, 1997 as amended *vide* TRAI (Amendment) Act, 2000. The instructions specifying the period within which a telephone should be shifted from one place to other has been issued *vide* TRAI Regulation (No. 2 of 2000) on Quality of Service (QoS) of Basic and Cellular Mobile Service, 2000 dated 5th July, 2000. As per the regulation, the parameter presently applicable is "95% of requests for shift to be completed within 5 days". Regarding All India Shift, no fixed time limit has been prescribed by TRAI. However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) is following the time limit of one month for inter-city (All-India) shift.

(c) Achievement are being reviewed at the highest level in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.

and constant watch is kept on the cases of shifts which could not be affected due to the concerned area being technically non-feasible and due to subscriber reasons. Moreover, TRAI has engaged M/s. Indian Market Research Bureau (IMRB) to monitor the QoS parameters (including shifting of telephone) on sample basis.

Digital signatures

†1913. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to enforce digital signatures in banking and business transaction;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be enforced;

(c) the facilities likely to be made available to the computer and internet users after enforcement of this system; and

(d) the measures taken to make this system secured?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Certifying Authority has to follow standards and adhere to infrastructure prescribed by the Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA). An Auditor from the panel maintained by CCA audits these. This ensure the safety of transactions involving digital signature. Users, on their part, need to keep their private keys secret.

Setting up of a National Cyberspace Cell

1914. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) wehther Government have decided to set up a National Cyberspace Cell;

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.